

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether hotline telephone installed at Sungaon Panchayat in Motihari District of Bihar is working properly;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to non-payment of bill for few months the said telephone is not working;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against the guilty persons / officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, there is no hot line telephone installed at Sungaon Panchayat in Motihari District of Bihar. One MARR Telephone No. 06252-23833 is installed there.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This telephone is disconnected due to non-payment of Rs. 13,661 since 22.03.2001.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Legal notices issued by GMT, Faridabad

1744. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of legal notices issued by GMT, Faridabad to its consumers for non-payment of outstanding Government dues in respect of closed telephone/ N.E. lines during the last six months;

(b) whether some consumers have responded to the legal notice by stating that the notice issued to them are illegal inviting attention to award / compensation given by District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Faridabad thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the GMT, Faridabad to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Legal Notices have been issued by GMTD, Faridabad to 140 subscribers for non-payment of outstanding Government dues in respect of closed telephone / NE lines during last six months. An amount of about Rs. 2.05 crores is involved therein. The notices were issued on 17.4.2001, 28.5.2001, 6.6.2001 to 16.6.2001.

(b) No such response has been received citing the award / compensation given by the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Faridabad.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Introduction of Mobile Service in Rural Areas

1745. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to introduce mobile phones in all the States especially in rural areas; and

(b) the target set for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government have granted licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), for Metro City Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas, to private operators as well as to the public sector operators, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as per details in the Statement (See below). Further process has been started for inducting one more private operator of CMTS in most of the Service Areas, for which bids have been received. After the introduction of additional operator, there will be three private operators and one Government Operator in most of the Service Areas in the country.

The terms and conditions of the licences, *inter-alia*, provide that atleast 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/ towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences granted. With multiple operators in each Service Area, it is expected that all the Licensees will cover more and more areas including semi-urban and rural areas.

BSNL has been given CMTS licence covering the entire country except for Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service areas. It has proposed to cover all the district Headquarters, important Pilgrimage Centres, Major Highways and